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Tutoring Incident and Analysis 1

 This tutoring incident started at the beginning of my placement, which is right after the middle school’s classes finished. I was assigned to help a table of four students who were working on mathematics homework, but only had two students that actually needed my help. Unfortunately these two girls were working on different homework assignments, so I had to go between them. However, they were friends and were sitting next to each other, which made it easy for me to go between the two to help them both. Unfortunately they also ended up chatting and messing with each other a lot while I was trying to help them, although the younger girl was the main instigator of the trouble. Perhaps this girl has an older girl that she has set up as a role model that does similar things? If so, then Bandura’s Social Learning Theory can be applied here to try to change this girl’s behavior by changing her role model’s behavior. In any case, the most annoying thing about this incident was that I was not able to do much of anything to stop them from misbehaving even though I was standing right next to them. I tried to get them to stop misbehaving by trying to refocus them both to work on their homework. I did this by first asking them to work on their homework. Then if that did not work, then I tried to break their line of sight to one another by either waving my hand between them or leaning in and over the table so that my one arm and part of my chest was in their way. I found that these methods usually worked! For about 1.6 seconds. Although on occasion these techniques really would keep them from causing trouble for a decent amount of time, which was nice. Then one of the teachers came over and split the students up so that this misbehavior would not continue.

 So then, the main thing that needs to be considered from this incident is how to keep students, especially “troublemaking” students, from misbehaving and focused on their schoolwork. Fortunately one related theory that should shed light onto this incident and make it possible to better understand what really happened, and figure out how to try and address this misbehavior, is Kohlberg’s Theory of Moral Reasoning. Using this theory it is possible to see that these two misbehaving students probably have the Pre-conventional Punishment – Obedience Orientation since they only seem to be worried by the degree to which they will be punished for misbehaving. Unfortunately these students do not seem to feel that any punishment they could receive, especially from me, for misbehaving is enough to make them behave; this is especially true of the student instigating the misbehavior. Keeping this in mind, it is possible to see that one way of effectively confronting this misbehavior is by figuring out what consequences, within reason, would work to keep these students from causing trouble and then implementing these consequences in a clearly specified manner. Unfortunately effective consequences may vary from student to student. This makes it difficult to apply this idea to more than a few students, since the teacher/adult must figure out what would be effective and appropriate for each individual student.